



Closing down Hong Kong---as the world city for the ivory trade -- Jeremy Higgs [REDACTED]

Jeremy Higgs to: bc_06_16

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Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am the Managing Director of Hong Kong's only specialist environmental equity fund management company licensed by the SFC. Recently I viewed the shocking documentary "The Ivory Game" which featured the wholesale slaughter and unlawful killing of elephants in Africa and the connected large scale syndicated trafficking of the illegally poached ivory to Asia—much of it being trafficked to and through Hong Kong.

As a long time resident of Hong Kong (40 years) and as an ex police officer , I was appalled to see what a major role Hong Kong continues to play in the illegal slaughter of African elephants and the trafficking of the poached ivory, either as a final destination for the illegal product, or as a convenient transshipment point for onward trafficking of illegal ivory into China. The involvement of Hong Kong based crime syndicates in this illegal trafficking is obvious, as is the associated traffickers and crime syndicates ability to hide behind the smokescreen of Hong Kong's well established and well connected legal ivory businesses.

It is well know that China intends to ban the legal ivory trade in the mainland by the end of this year (2017) and has given the legal ivory traders 12 months to sell their stock and close their businesses— with no commensurate compensation being offered. However the Hong Kong SAR is still contemplating implementing an ivory sales ban by the end of 2021—along with consideration of compensating the ivory traders for unsold product. Such an unwarranted compensation action if legislated will surely encourage and attract even greater use of Hong Kong as THE international trafficking centre by the local based crime syndicates for the distribution of the illegally poached ivory.

As a supposed "World City" Hong Kong should be leading the international effort to save the elephant species or at least be doing the same and on the same timescale as motherland China—and banning the legal ivory trade by the end of 2017. Furthermore the Government of the HKSAR --should not on behalf of us tax payers compensate the ivory traders for the stock of their businesses that have profited for so long from the cruelty and suffering inflicted on elephants. Any compensation will only vicariously encourage the Hong Kong based crime syndicates to organise more slaughter and killing of elephants . The ivory industry in Hong Kong has for much too long prospered upon the cruelty and the crime surrounding the killing of elephants and should not be rewarded for this "black" association in any manner.

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Higgs-- [REDACTED]

Jeremy Higgs

Managing Director - EISAL (Environmental Investment Services Asia Limited)

Suite 1502, Glenealy Tower, No. 1 Glenealy, Central, Hong Kong

Tel: [REDACTED] email: [REDACTED] web: www.eisal.com